subsistence from his/her own source of income or through financial support from family member or other sources.

Funds are released to the States which in turn release the same to the respective State Department of Food & Civil Supplies (F&CS). At the State level, the Food & Civil Supplies Departments purchase the foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India (FCI), at BPL rates and supply foodgrains at district Level from their designated depots. At district level, the scheme is implemented by the District Collector/Chief Executive officer (CEO) of the Zilla Panchayat. The Collector/CEO arranges for distribution of the foodgrains through the network of Fair Price Shops under the Targeted Public Distribution System. The beneficiaries under the scheme are identified by the Gram Sabhas and the Gram Panchayats distribute the entitlement cards to the beneficiaries which entitles them to receive the foodgrains.

During the year 2000-2001, Rs. 577.63 lakhs have been released to Assam under Annapurna Scheme. As per the report received so far, no foodgrains have been lifted by the State Government. The allocation for the State for the current year has also been kept at Rs. 577.63 lakh. No releases have been made during the current year as the State Government has not reported an expenditure of 75% of available funds, as required in terms of the guidelines for the scheme.

Payment of dues to farmers of Dharvar by FCI

1984. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India owes huge amount to the farmers of the taluks of the Dharvar District of Karnataka, if so, the amount due and since when it is pending; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to see that the amount is paid to the farmers at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not purchased maize directly from the farmers in

Dharvar Taluk and hence, no amount is due from FCI to farmers. However, an amount of 84 lakhs is reimbursable to Karnataka State Food & Civil Supplies Corporation (KFCSC) by the FCI for procurement of maize at Dharvar Taluk. The bills are being received for the period from March, 2001 to 16.7.2001 and payment of the same is being released immediately on receipt of bills from KFCSC.

Food Management Policy

1985. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Centre's Food Management Policy seems to consist of series of flip flops; and

(b) if so, what is the new viable Food Management Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) In order to address the problems emerging from the changed scenario in the food sector, Government has decided to constitute a High Level Committee on 16th November, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Ex-Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy for the country. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:—

(i) Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and Price Support Operations.

(ii) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) related issues.

(iii) Functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(iv) Grain Policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import.

(v) Allocation of foodgrains for Rural Development and other Welfare Programmes.

The Committee has so far not submitted its final report.